

Message Text

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FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, SU
SUBJECT: FOOD AID FOR SUDAN

REF: STATE 82578

1. WE ALSO HAVE BEEN CONSIDERING WAYS TO INTEGRATE FOOD AID MORE EFFECTIVELY INTO OUR RECENTLY RESUMED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN SUDAN. PL-480 ASSISTANCE, BOTH TITLE I AND TITLE II, ALREADY MAKE UP A LARGE SEGMENT OF OUR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AND I THINK THAT THERE ARE STRONG POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC REASONS THAT ARGUE FOR AN EXPANSION OF PL-480 ASSISTANCE TO SUDAN.

2. AS YOU KNOW SUDAN'S MODERATE POSITIONS ON AFRICAN AND MIDDLE EASTERN QUESTIONS, ITS GROWING LEADERSHIP ROLE IN AFRICA, ITS SIZE AND STRATEGIC LOCATION AND ITS IMPROVING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD PROVIDE SOLID POLITICAL JUSTIFICATION. AT THE SAME TIME COUNTRY IS FACING ENORMOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS PARTICULARLY IN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS/FOREIGN EXCHANGE AREA. ECONOMIC STRAINS ARE BEGINNING TO HAVE UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES SO THAT AN EXPANSION SOON OF U.S. FOOD AID
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WOULD BE TIMELY IN POLITICAL CONTEXT.

3. IN LIGHT OF THESE CIRCUMSTANCES AND CONSIDERING GUIDANCE CONTAINED REFTEL BASIC QUESTION IS TO DETERMINE HOW BEST TO IMPLEMENT EXPANDED FOOD AID PROGRAM. WE DO NOT RPT NOT BELIEVE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE CAPABLE OF PROPERLY MANAGING SIGNIFICANT EXPANSION

TITLE II PROGRAM. SIMILARLY OUR OWN RESOURCES ARE EXTREMELY LIMITED AND THEREFORE WE CAN NOT CONTEMPLATE LARGE GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. THEREFORE WE ENVISAGE AN EXPANDED TITLE I PROGRAM AND GIVEN SEVERE FINANCIAL PROBLEM IN SUDAN OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO MOVE AS MUCH OF THIS EFFORT UNDER TITLE III AS POSSIBLE.

4. AID/SUDAN IS ALREADY LOOKING INTO THE IMPLICATIONS OF AN EXPANSION IN PL-480 ASSISTANCE AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE CONTAINED IN ITS FORTHCOMING ANNUAL BUDGET SUBMISSION. WE SHALL BE CONSIDERING HOW THE PROGRAM CAN BE USED TO ENHANCE RURAL DEVELOPMENT THAT WOULD OTHERWISE NOT TAKE PLACE AND HOW OUR EFFORTS CAN BE USED TO MODIFY SUDANESE POLICIES AS CONTEMPLATED UNDER TITLE III LEGISLATION.

5. IN SUM WE FIND TONE OF REFTEL ENCOURAGING. WE STRONGLY

BELIEVE THAT SUDAN, BOTH ON POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GROUNDS, SHOULD BE A LEADING CANDIDATE FOR EXPANDED FOOD AID. WE SHALL BE DISCUSSING OUR IDEAS IN MORE DETAIL IN FORTHCOMING MESSAGES. IN ADDITION, IN LIGHT OF POINTS MADE REFTEL I HAVE INSTRUCTED OUR ECONOMIC SECTION TO REPORT IN MORE DETAIL ON FOOD SITUATION IN SUDAN.
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